

SWOBODA REMAINS TO CRACK MYSTERY

Friends Defend Him, But
Former Neighbors Suspect
Him as Spy.

CHEMISTS SAY SHIP BLAZE STARTED IN TWO TRUNKS

Prisoner and an Austrian, Now in
Prison. Discovered About French
Defensive Works.

PARIS, April 2.—Although the police investigation of the history of Raymond Swoboda, charged with being responsible for the fire aboard the steamship La Touraine, has brought out additional facts regarding him, he remains something of a mystery. Several of his friends in New York, who did not know him entirely unacquainted, while former neighbors declare he long was under suspicion as a spy.

M. Trescat, a stock broker, who knew Swoboda well, says he can see no possible motive for the act which he is accused. After hostilities began and business was suspended on the bourse, according to Trescat, Swoboda sought some other occupation. One of the plans he considered was to go to the United States and obtain samples of military clothing and equipment and tools which the ministry of war would be likely to purchase. Trescat asserts Swoboda finally decided upon this venture, and visited many factories in the United States.

Photo Explained.

Friends of Swoboda explain the photograph in which he appears in the uniform of a German officer, by stating that he spent two years at Heidelberg to perfect himself in German, and the picture probably was taken while he was wearing his student's uniform.

Plans found in Swoboda's office, which the police regarded as suspicious, his friends say, probably were left there by an uncle, who is an architect at Lancaster and who recently visited him in Paris.

M. Mommeja of the Boulevard Hausmann, a banker, declared to reporters, on the other hand, that Swoboda represented himself as a German, but some time later he overheard Swoboda talking German fluently over the telephone. When the banker called the attention of his employee to the conflicting statements he had made Swoboda explained that he had studied at Heidelberg. Mommeja became suspicious, however, and discharged Swoboda in 1913.

Three days ago M. Mommeja heard that his former employee had been seen in a Paris cafe in company with very suspicious persons. He at once reported the matter to the local police.

Swoboda Suspected.

According to statements made to newspaper reporters by residents of the suburb of Vitry, where Swoboda lived at one time, the man had long been regarded with suspicion. He was very intimate with the Austrian-German who was a resident of the suburb, and spent much of his time with an Austrian named Padouk. A few days after the outbreak of hostilities Swoboda was discovered at a late hour one night close to the house, and was arrested. Upon being arrested he explained he was an American and pleaded ignorance of the production of satisfactory papers he was allowed to go.

This incident, however, according to the residents of the suburb of Vitry, made a strong impression upon Swoboda's neighbors, and they decided to watch him. One night he was seen to go to the house of a man named Prusot. Shortly after the two men emerged and made their way cautiously to the door of a house, where they were being observed. It was known that Prusot was an Austrian.

Some time later Swoboda, disguised as a mason, was seen coming from the house, but for some reason they took no action. Weeks passed, and, finally, January 1, 1915, he was arrested and sent him to a concentration camp. By this time Swoboda had left Vitry, and was on his way to America.

Trunk Fire, Chemists Say.

HAVRE, April 2.—Expert chemists who are investigating the cause of the fire aboard the steamship La Touraine, now express the belief that it was not the result of an explosion, but originated in three large cases of textiles which were stored in the baggage hold.

Examining Magistrate Barnaud will examine all the passengers and members of the crew he can reach. He has requested the Paris police to question several persons now in that city and search for certain clues. Raymond Swoboda, who is under arrest on a charge of being responsible for the steamship fire, has not yet been transferred to this city, but is expected to arrive tomorrow. The trunks and other property of Swoboda will be opened only in the presence of the prisoner.

Ambassador Sharp Is Asked

by State Department for

Data on Swoboda's Arrest

Ambassador Sharp at Paris has been called upon by the State Department

for a report as to the circumstances

surrounding the arrest of Raymond

Swoboda, an American citizen, charged

with having set fire to La Touraine, a

French liner, on her recent trip from

New York to Havre.

Friends of Swoboda in New York city

had brought press reports of his arrest

to the department's attention, and

vouched for his American citizenship.

Swoboda's Passports Under Inquiry.

Swoboda's right to the passport he

exhibited in New York and Paris al-

ready was under investigation by the

Department of Justice, the duplicate

from the files of the State Department

having been referred for that purpose.

This, however, was regarded merely as

a routine procedure, and there seems to

be no ground for doubting that the

man was entitled to whatever protection

the United States government extends

to its citizens in similar circum-

stances.

R. K. Maclean of New York, who is

associated with Swoboda in purchasing

supplies for sale to the allies, came to Washington and filed with the State Department a protest to protect Swoboda's citizenship. He had with him a letter written by Swoboda in Paris to Thomas Hooper in New York, describing inconveniences resulting from the fire on La Touraine and telling of saving some textile samples.

Mr. Maclean formerly was connected with the tariff board here as a textile expert.

It was pointed out last night that for the present the State Department could do no more than instruct Ambassador Sharp to see that Swoboda gets a fair trial in the courts. Diplomatic negotiations would follow only in case the charges against him seemed to be unfounded, while former neighbors declared he long was under suspicion as a spy.

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BRITISH LINER FALABA.

STEAMER SUNK BY GERMAN U-28 WITH THE LOSS OF 140 PASSENGERS, AMONG WHOM WAS AN AMERICAN.

PROSECUTION RESTS CASE

IN KEMP DRUG TRIAL

Detectors Tell of Searching McCann

Just Prior to Going to

Doctor's Office.

NEW YORK, April 2.—Carmine Car-

bone continued to testify in his own

behalf when the trial of himself and

Frank Abarno, accused of attempting

to set off bombs in St. Patrick's Ca-

thedral, was resumed today. Carbone

denied mixing the ingredients for the

bombs, saying this had been done by

Polligani, the detective accused. He

described in detail how the detective

made the bombs. He said Polligani

had told him the following Tuesday

was the best time to plant the bombs.

"I promised to go along," the witness

said, "but I hadn't the slightest inten-

tion of doing so."

Says Police Struck Him.

Carbone said policemen at police

headquarters struck him when he said

he could not implicate Carlo Tresca,

the Industrial Workers of the World

organizer, and others. Cap. Tunney,

he declared, said that if he did not give

such testimony he would get from

forty to fifty years.

Carbone, in a weak, faltering voice,

accused the police of forcing him to

take part in the alleged conspiracy un-

der threat that he would meet the

same fate as the detective, if he did

not. He said he was not a spy, and

he did not know a word of German, but

some time later he overheard Swoboda

talking German fluently over the tele-

phone. When the banker called the at-

tention of his employee to the conflict-

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